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The present invention relates to a method for making porous microcrystalline cellulose granules by granulating microcrystalline cellulose with a combination of water and a water-miscible, volatile, polar organic solvent. After granulation, the granules are first dried to remove substantially all of the polar organic solvent without removing a substantial portion of the water and without spheronizing or extruding the granules. Subsequent to removing substantially all of the polar organic solvent, a substantial portion of the water is removed from the granules to thereby obtain the porous microcrystalline cellulose granules. This granulation process produces a special form of microcrystalline cellulose granules that are characterized by a large mean particle size (i.e. 250-1000